

Today's News - Tuesday, April 2, 2013

- In our third Nuts + Bolts, Whitehorn puts a focus on the future: Business forecasts are looking brighter, but steady, measured growth is still your best strategy for success.
- de Monchaux offers a most interesting take on Ito's Pritzker win: while it "acknowledges his indisputable skill and endurance, the prize also illuminates some of the deep weirdness of architecture as a profession" (sharp elbows and "hungry hustlers" included).
- Saffron reports on the growing support behind efforts to give Denise Scott Brown her long-overdue Pritzker (tool around the petition site and you'll find some heavy hitters like Hadid, Moussavi, Rashid, Antonelli, Baan, Whiting, etc.).
- Wainwright wanders and ponders the 2013 Capital of Culture: will Marseille's £6 billion in "flashy new architecture" (some of it "embarrassingly shouty," some "enigmatic") prove "the power of spectacle over long-term, joined-up thinking - how far this will filter out into the impoverished peripheries is questionable."
- Lubell takes us on a tour of contemporary Parisian architecture by the "latest crop of French architects producing some of the best new work the city has seen."
- Heathcote cheers The Shed at London's Southbank Centre, "built more like a theatrical project than an architectural one. It is an architecture of possibilities" (and perhaps a better way to go for the rest of the complex?).
- Weiss/Manfredi's "Design Loft" beats a stellar shortlist to design Kent State's new College of Architecture and Environmental Design.
- Prince Charles taps Poundbury architect to design the 350-home Fen Meadow development in Hampshire (it will not be a Poundbury replica, says he - time and (eventual) images will tell...).
- Betsky and Hart take on architecture and memory - in two very different ways.
- Wainwright makes his pick for the best of the spring season in architecture and design.
- NYC AIDS Memorial final design is unveiled (not at all similar to winning design and nary a tree in sight - time to re-think the name "Infinite Forest").
- An eyeful of "tree wood" by Toshihiro Oki Architect, winner of the 2nd Annual "Folly" Competition (tree included).
- One we couldn't resist: Grabar rounds up an "April Fools Urbanist Round-Up" (e.g. "Kotkin Concedes to Florida: 'You Were Right'").
- Call for entries: Triangle Fire Memorial Design Competition + Deadline extended for Architect mag's 2013 R+D Awards + One we couldn't resist (and one of our faves): Nominations in the 12th Annual America's Best Public Restroom Contest.

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Nuts + Bolts #3: Focus on the Future: Keys to Steady Growth in a Slow Recovery: Business forecasts are looking brighter, but steady, measured growth is still your best strategy for success. By Steve Whitehorn- ArchNewsNow

Toyo Ito's Pritzker Prize Win: ...as much as Ito's Pritzker acknowledges his indisputable skill and endurance, the prize also illuminates some of the deep weirdness of architecture as a profession...a symptom of a sharp-elbowed profession whose members, even as they cultivate the aura of ascetic aesthetes, are often hungry hustlers for whom the ultimate prizes are not medals, but clients. By Thomas de Monchaux- New Yorker

Online petition seeks to right a Pritzker Prize wrong: 22 years later, the omission still rankles Denise Scott Brown...her pointed remarks...in London have touched a nerve as never before...when Wang Shu won the Pritzker, there was no mention that all his buildings had been designed jointly with his partner and wife, Lu Wenwu. By Inga Saffron -- Robert Venturi/Venturi Scott Brown and Associates/VSBA [link to petition]- Philadelphia Inquirer

Marseille's £6bn Capital of Culture rebirth: ...once notorious for gangs, drugs and violence...Will its flashy new architecture, including a giant mirror by Norman Foster, make it a worthy Capital of Culture? By Oliver Wainwright -- Foster + Partners; Zaha Hadid; Stefano Boeri; Rudy Ricciotti; Kengo Kuma- Guardian (UK)

In Paris, Mixing the Contemporary With the Classics: The latest crop of French architects is producing some of the best new work the city has seen. They are an eclectic group comfortable taking large risks while still melding the work into an august context...producing treasures sprinkled amid the dense historic fabric. By Sam Lubell -- Francis Soler Architecte; Rudy Ricciotti/Mario Bellini; Manuelle Gautrand; Jakob + MacFarlane; Jean Nouvel; Patrick Blanc; Périphériques; Édouard François [images]- New York Times

The Shed: A new temporary theatre and planned glass structures are set to further change the face of London's Southbank Centre: Conceived and built more like a theatrical project than an architectural one...An intervention like this allows a shift in understanding what can be done with that piece of the public realm. It is an architecture of possibilities... By Edwin Heathcote -- Haworth Tompkins; Feilden Clegg Bradley- Financial Times (UK)

Weiss/Manfredi design for new KSU architecture school building will link town, gown: Kent State University's new \$40 million College of Architecture and Environmental Design..."Design Loft" will be eye-catching, but not so far-out that it irritates..."This isn't a wacky building. It's functional, but design-forward." By Steven Litt -- Richard L. Bowen + Associates [image]- Cleveland Plain Dealer

Prince Charles Poundbury village's architect to design Fen Meadow development in Nursling, Hampshire: It will see 350 homes spring up on the 27-acre site...including 53 affordable properties... -- Gary Worsfold Architecture- Daily Echo (UK)

A New Humanism: Part 14: Finding authenticity through references to iconic places, building details: ...we still try to transplant European or eastern landscapes in western American deserts, and other allusions invoke emotion-filled memories... By Robert Lamb Hart/Hart Howerton; illustrations by Albrecht Pichler- Metropolis Magazine

Continuity and Break-Making: The Tradition of Mis-Remembering: Buildings are jarring or beautiful reminders of a present reality, even when they try to follow a seemingly unbroken tradition...Classicism is, in other words, a continual remaking of a time and place based on fragments we draw from many sources in order to create something radically new. By Aaron Betsky- Architect Magazine

The best architecture and design for spring 2013: A shimmering Copenhagen aquarium, the future face of England, and a superstar Dutch typographer. By Oliver Wainwright -- 3XN; "Charles Correa: India's Greatest Architect"; Dunne & Raby/"United Micro Kingdoms"; Wim Crouwel- Guardian (UK)

Final Design Unveiled for New York City AIDS Memorial: ...will feature an 18-foot steel canopy that will serve as a gateway to the new St. Vincent's Hospital Park... -- Studio a+i [images]- Architectural Record

Folly 2013: "tree wood" by Toshihiro Oki, Jen Wood, and Jared Diganci, winners of the 2nd Annual "Folly" Competition for a public exhibition and residency for emerging architects, presented by Socrates Sculpture Park and the Architectural League of New York [slide show]- Architectural League of New York

Jokes of the Day: April Fools Urbanist Round-Up: "Kotkin Concedes to Florida: 'You Were Right"'; etc. By Henry Grabar- The Atlantic Cities

Call for entries: Triangle Fire Memorial Design Competition (international); cash prizes; registration deadline: April 12, (submission deadline: April 19)- Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition

Call for entries - Deadline Extended: 7th Annual R+D Awards to honor innovative materials and systems at every scale; deadline now: April 19- Architect Magazine

Call for entries: Nominations in the 12th Annual America's Best Public Restroom Contest; deadline: July 23- Cintas

-- Image Library: Gehry Partners: Walt Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles, California
-- "Richard Meier. Architecture and Design": Fondazione Bisazza, Montecchio Maggiore, Italy, May 08 - July 28, 2013

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